

FY21 City Council Budget Hearing Requests Environment Department

Councilor Mejia asked for: The amount of stipend paid to environment community leaders and ambassadors. *Response:* The stipend provided for leaders is \$200 per request to offset organizing costs. The Ambassadors have an overall pool of about approximately \$10,000 to allocate to initiatives.

Councilor Janey asked for: Environment Department breakdown of WMBEs and MBEs for FY20 and projections for FY21. *Response:* None of the department's contract vendors are certified WMBE or MBE with the City's office of Economic Development. The department remains committed to following all applicable procurement laws, while working closely with the Office of Economic Development to identify diverse vendors.

Councilor Edwards asked: Has the department researched information on the painting of municipal buildings roofs white? *Response:* The department has been researching many different ways the city can combat climate change and the heat island effect, including painting roofs white.

Councilor Campbell asked for: Information about the Environment Department community outreach program. *Response:* The Climate Ready Dorchester Coastal Resilience Planning Study, for example, had three tiers of engagement. Community open houses gave residents opportunities to meet the planners, raise questions, and react to analyses and options. Because not everyone can attend an open house, we attended meetings of neighborhood associations and presented similar material. Finally, all Boston residents could share their thoughts on the plan through an online survey, through our email listserv, and on [boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov). The Greenovate Boston Leaders Program educates and empowers Boston residents to take action on climate change. GB Leaders learn the fundamentals of climate change, how it affects Boston residents, including the most vulnerable, how to take effective action, and where to find resources. The commitment that Leaders make is to take this information to their own networks to spur local action.